

**Meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board
August 15, 2008**

Final CEQA Findings

Item

Consider approval of Permit No. 18322 (Attachment A) to drill a natural gas well, construct production pad and install 2.65 miles of pipeline within the Yolo Bypass.

Applicant

Kebo Oil and Gas, Inc.

CEQA Findings:

The Board, acting as a responsible agency under CEQA, has independently reviewed the Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (December 2007) for the Kebo Oil & Gas, Inc., Glide 14-1 Natural Gas Well Project (SCN 2008042078) prepared by the lead agency, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The Initial Study and Mitigation Monitoring Program may be viewed or downloaded from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board website at <http://www.cvpfb.ca.gov/meetings/2008/08-15-2008.cfm> under a link for this agenda item.

Mitigation measures were incorporated into the project design to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant and address impacts to:

- Water Resources (production equipment will be elevated above the 100-year flood levels and well heads will be enclosed with metal cages; proper disposal of generated waste away from waterways; proper vehicle and equipment maintenance; earthen berms to contain any spills; accessible spill prevention and response equipment; proper cleanup and notification procedures)
- Air Quality (dust control measures)
- Biological Resources (a qualified biologist will conduct environmental awareness training of construction and drilling personnel; a qualified biological monitor shall be present during ground disturbing and drilling activities; pre-construction botanical surveys; pre-construction surveys for protected and special-status avian species; establish exclusion buffer areas around avian nesting sites; giant garter snake pre-construction surveys and avoidance measures; minimize and restore disturbance to sensitive wetlands; provide wetland mitigation; install sediment fencing; equipment storage and parking restrictions; traffic control;

provide escape ramps for wildlife; inspect for animals trapped during construction)

- Hazards (drilling site constructed in a manner that secondary containment is provided for drilling and production activities; restrict access to project staging, construction, and other work areas)
- Aesthetics (production facilities shall be painted camouflage or an earthen tone to blend in with the environs and to prevent glare)
- Cultural resources (avoidance measures; a qualified archaeologist will evaluate any potentially significant cultural resources discovered, and work will be halted immediately)
- Recreation (re-gravel the access roadway in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area)
- Mandatory Findings of Significance
 - The proposed project will have only temporary and minor impacts on the environment. Fish and wildlife habitat will not be reduced and no significant mortality of fish or wildlife is anticipated. Project activities could cause physical impacts to sensitive plant communities and behavior changes in some wildlife species during critical periods and in critical locations. However, these impacts are expected to be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures identified above. The proposed project will not affect the number or range of rare or endangered species or eliminate important cultural resources.
 - The proposed project would not compromise long-term environmental goals to achieve short-term goals. No impact is anticipated.
 - Construction emissions and fugitive dust generated by the proposed project would contribute to the existing exceedance of air quality standards in project area. However, due to the small scale of the project, limited duration of construction, and implementation of adopted mitigation measures, the project contribution to this cumulative impact would be less than significant.
 - The proposed project has no identified direct or indirect environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on humans. Potential health and safety related impacts are temporary and are expected to be less than significant if the project is implemented as proposed.

Based on its independent review of the DFG Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and Mitigation Monitoring Program the Board finds that although the proposed project could have significant environmental impacts there will be no significant impacts in this case because DFG has incorporated mandatory mitigation measures into the project plans that will reduce the level of significance to less than significant after mitigation.